

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

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Pers. Mueller, Merrill

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

CIA 1-01 Helms

Pers. Russell, Richard B.

Org. Friends Society

CIA 8-02

PROGRAM News of the World

STATION WRC Radio
NBC Network

DATE February 21, 1967 7:30 PM

CITY Washington, DC

PRESIDENT DECLINING TO GET INVOLVED

MERRILL MUELLER: "President Johnson reportedly is declining to get involved in the debate over Central Intelligence Agency subsidies of student groups, until a special review board, that he has appointed, makes its report on such activities.

"But CIA Director Richard Helms told the Senate Watchdog Committee today, 'The Agency is withdrawing support from a number of non-governmental organizations.'

"Senator Richard Russell of Georgia told newsmen the substance of Helms testimony, and added, 'The idea the CIA has damaged academic freedom is hogwash.

"The CIA's effectiveness is what's greatly damaged.'

"NBC News learned in Washington tonight that the CIA may have indirectly financed part of the Friends Society medical aid to North Vietnam."

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